The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss any issues related to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up Version of Amended Claims
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.121(b)-(c)

1. (Amended) A therapeutic agent for myocardiopathy used for noninvasive administration, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a nucleic acid molecule encoding a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) [gene as the effective ingredient].

2. (Amended) The therapeutic agent of claim 1, [which] wherein [is used for administration of] the [HGF gene] nucleic acid molecule is a pharmaceutical composition suitable for administration into [the] cardiac muscle.

3. (Amended) The therapeutic agent of claim 1 [or 2], wherein the [HGF gene is in the form of] nucleic acid molecule comprises a Sendai virus (HVJ)-liposome.

4. (Amended) The therapeutic agent of claim 2 [or 3, which is used for], wherein noninvasive administration [to the affected part of the cardiac muscle under the usage of echo] comprises echocardiography guided administration.

5. (Amended) The therapeutic agent of [any of claims 1 to 4,] claim 1, wherein the agent is [which is to be] administered [at least 8 times,] once a week for 8 weeks.

6. (Amended) The therapeutic agent of [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, [wherein] comprising at least 10 μg of the [HGF gene] nucleic acid molecule [is used].

7. (Amended) The therapeutic agent of [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein the myocardiopathy is selected from the group consisting of cardiomyopathy, angina pectoris and heart failure.

8. (Amended) A [gene therapy] therapeutic agent used for noninvasive administration of a [gene] nucleic acid molecule into an affected part of a tissue [under the usage of echo] using echocardiography, [which comprises genes] comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a

nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide effective for the treatment of a disorder [as the effective ingredient].

9. (Amended) The [gene therapy] agent of claim 8, wherein the affected part of the tissue is [the] cardiac muscle.

10. (Amended) The [gene therapy] agent of claim 8 [or 9], wherein the [gene is an HGF gene] nucleic acid molecule encodes HGF.

11. (Amended) A method for [gene therapy for] treating myocardiopathy, [which comprises] comprising noninvasive administration of [an HGF gene] a therapeutically effective amount of a nucleic acid molecule encoding HGF into the cardiac muscle of a mammal[, including a human].

12. (Amended) The method [for gene therapy] of claim 11, wherein the [HGF gene is in the form of] nucleic acid molecule comprises a Sendai virus (HVJ)-liposome.

13. (Amended) The method [for gene therapy] of claim 11 [or 12], wherein the [HGF gene] nucleic acid molecule is administered noninvasively to a part of an affected cardiac muscle [under the usage of echo] using echocardiography.

14. (Amended) The method [for gene therapy of any of claims 11 to 14] of claim 11, wherein the [HGF gene] nucleic acid molecule is administered [at least 8 times,] once a week for 8 weeks.

15. (Amended) The method [for gene therapy of any of claims 11 to 14] of claim 11, wherein the myocardiopathy is selected from the group consisting of cardiomyopathy, angina pectoris and heart failure.

16. (Amended) A method for [gene therapy] treating a disorder, [which comprises the] comprising noninvasive administration of [genes] a nucleic acid molecule encoding a

polypeptide effective for the treatment of a disorder into an affected part of a tissue [under the usage of echo] using echocardiography.

17. (Amended) The method [for gene therapy] of claim 16, wherein the affected tissue is [the] cardiac muscle.

18. (Amended) The method [for gene therapy] of claim 16 [or 17], wherein the [gene is an HGF gene] nucleic acid molecule encodes HGF.

Please cancel claims 19-25.

Please add the following new claims:

26. The therapeutic agent of claim 2, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises a Sendai virus (HVJ)-liposome.

27. The therapeutic agent of claim 3, wherein noninvasive administration comprises echocardiography guided administration.

28. The agent of claim 9, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes HGF.

29. The method of claim 11, wherein the mammal is a human.

30. The method of claim 12, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is administered noninvasively to a part of an affected cardiac muscle using echocardiography.

31. The method of claim 17, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes HGF.

32. The method of claim 11, wherein the noninvasive administration comprises administering the nucleic acid molecule by injection.

33. The method of claim 11, wherein the non evasive administration comprises administering the nucleic acid molecule through a catheter.

34. The method of claim 32, wherein injection comprises injection into an affected cardiac muscle.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the noninvasive administration further comprises injecting the nucleic acid molecule into the cardiac muscle.